

## ***M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System (HERCULES)***

### ***Description***

The M88A2 HERCULES is an armored, full-tracked, low-silhouette vehicle. It will replace the aging M88A1 tracked recovery vehicle as the sole heavy recovery asset in the Marine Corps. Improvements include increased armor protection, a more powerful engine, modified transmission, improved final drives and increased weight (to aid in towing stability), upgraded suspension, improved hydraulic system, new heavy-duty wench, and increased overhead lift capability. It is used for hoisting, winching, and towing operations for all vehicles up to 70 tons (63.49 metric tons). It is equipped to assist in repairing disabled vehicles under field conditions. The vehicle carries a crew of three: commander, operator, and mechanic/rigger.

### ***Operational Impact***

The additional capabilities of the M88A2 HERCULES will give the operating forces relief from the current limitations of the M88A1. One HERCULES can safely tow the M1A1 Tank. Currently, two M88A1s are required to tow the M1A1 because its weight creates an unsafe environment for recovery crew personnel. The ability to quickly and safely recover combat vehicles with the fewest assets possible will be a force multiplier.

### ***Program Status***

The program is currently in Phase III. An Acquisition Decision Memorandum was signed in FY00 authorizing the full procurement of 61 M88A2 HERCULES (FY00-FY05). A production contract was awarded for 27 HERCULES Recovery Vehicles with FY00 funding. A new contract will be negotiated for FY01 procurement of 17 vehicles with option years for an additional 8 in FY02 and 9 in FY03.

<b><i>Procurement Profile:</i></b>	<b><i>FY01</i></b>	<b><i>FY02</i></b>
<i>Quantity:</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>8</i>

### ***Developer/Manufacturer***

United Defense, Limited Partnership, York, PA  
General Dynamics Land Systems, Warren, MI